

REMARKS

Applicant submits that a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed merely to correct a typographical error with respect to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 7, 2001 and considered on January 24, 2005, namely the Sumner patent should be cited as U.S. Patent No. 6,009,173 as opposed to U.S. Patent No. 6,609,173.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 17, 41, 48, 63, 73, and 78 for clarification purposes. No new matter has been added. Support is found, for example, on page 13, lines 31-33 of the specification. Applicant has added claims 91-100. No new matter has been added. The claims are supported by the specification, including for example pages 7-8.

On page 2, paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 13-17, 22-23, 25-26, 28-33, 36-38, 41-42, 44-48, 53-54, 56-59, 61-63, 68-69, 71-73, 78-79, and 81-84 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asay et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,903,882 ("Asay"). On page 7, paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 10-11, 20-21, 51-52, 66-67, 76-77, 87 and 89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asay in view of Schneier (Applied Cryptography). On page 8, paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 8-9, 12, 18-19, 39-40, 49-50, 64-65, 74-75, 85-86 and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asay in view of Stallings (Cryptography and Network Security). Applicant submits that the above references do not render the present invention obvious as there are significant non-obvious differences between the cited references and the present invention. Thus, with respect to the above rejections, Applicant respectfully disagrees and has the following remarks.

In the system of Asay, the transaction document 112 (shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 5; col. 16 line 21- col. 17, line 4) contains verifying information from only one of the parties in the transaction (the sender). In contrast, the document created according to the method of the present invention comprises verifying information from at least two of the parties. Furthermore, the expiration dates described in the system of Asay (col. 13, lines 61-63; col. 12, line 29) indicate the validity of the identity associated with each of the digital certificates. The identity's expiration date is solely determined by each certificate's issuing authority. In contrast, the present invention uses expiration dates as a means to describe the validity of a relationship among two or more parties, where the relationship is described by the document. Furthermore, in accordance with the present invention, the document has at least one expiration date and the parties all agree to use the earliest expiration date of the document. Neither Asay nor any of the other cited secondary references teaches or suggests the features of a mutually agreed upon expiration date. In addition, the system of Asay requires pre-established contracts to establish relationships between the parties (col. 4, lines 20-27); whereas, the present invention creates an electronic document to establish a relationship among the parties.

The system of Asay allows for only a single document creator, which has verifying information from the subscriber. By way of including the subscriber's certificate, verifying information about the certification authority is also included in the document. However, Applicant submits that this does not imply that the certification authority helped to co-author the document. Rather, the system of Asay uses the certification authority's verifying information as an attestation of the subscriber's identity, and not the document's authorship. In accordance with the present invention, a document is created that comprises verifying information that demonstrates multi-authorship by adding verifying information from multiple parties. Applicant

submits that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for a party to digitally sign a portion of an electronic document with each party thereby attesting to and witnessing agreement to the other parties' portions of the document. Furthermore, the system of Asay describes in col. 18, lines 16-54, the creation of a second certificate based on instructions contained in the first document (the transaction). The present invention relates to the creation of a single electronic document. Additionally, the system of Asay requires that information about the primary certificate be given to both the reliance server and subscriber. Both parties are expected to maintain copies of the primary certificate (col. 5, lines 1-7) because Asay requires pre-established contracts between the parties. In the present invention, one party need only maintain a copy of the electronic document that was co-authored by multiple parties. In accordance with the present invention, the document is self-proving, in that it does not require a reliance server to keep copies of the document. In other words, the present invention merely requires that the document be presented when it is used.

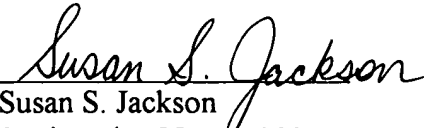
Furthermore, with respect to the argument in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement adding encrypted security information pertaining to the first party to the security document as Asay discloses the step of adding security information pertaining to the second and third to the electronic ticket so as to securely acknowledge and confirm transmitted data. Applicant points out that the secondary certificate described in Asay, (col. 18, line 56 - col. 19, line 46) is created without the first party's (the subscriber's) knowledge, which is why there is no security information from the first party. Whereas, the present invention involves active participation by all parties to co-create the electronic document, which is how security from all parties is present in the document. With respect to Schneier and Stallings, Applicant submits that neither

reference addresses the shortcomings of Asay, as set forth above, to render the present invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

It was noted that on page 8, paragraph 6 that claims 2, 24, 27, 34-35, 43, 55, 60, 70 and 80 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


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